

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, the disclosure was objected to because of the noted informality. In response, the specification is herewith amended to provide the appropriate correction, and it is respectfully submitted that the instant specification is now in proper form.

Additionally, claim 17 was objected to because of the noted informality, and appropriate correction was required. In response, claim 17 is herewith amended to correct the noted informality, and it is respectfully submitted that this claim is now in proper form.

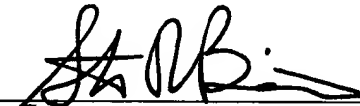
On the merits, Applicants' prior arguments have been considered, but have been deemed moot in view of the new grounds of rejection, with claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 17 and 21 being rejected under §102 or §103 for the reasons of record. Claims 3-8, 11-16 and 18-20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed to be allowable if placed in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, and in order to place the instant application in condition for allowance, claims 2, 3, 10, 11 and 18 have been cancelled, without prejudice, and claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 17 and 19 have been amended. After entry of this amendment, the pending claims will contain the subject matter of the claims deemed to be

allowable in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the noted informalities in the specification and claims have been corrected, and that the currently-pending claims, as amended, properly place the allowable subject matter in independent form. Accordingly, allowance of the instant application is now respectfully submitted to be justified, and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

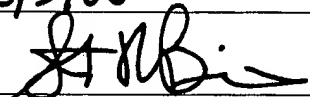
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